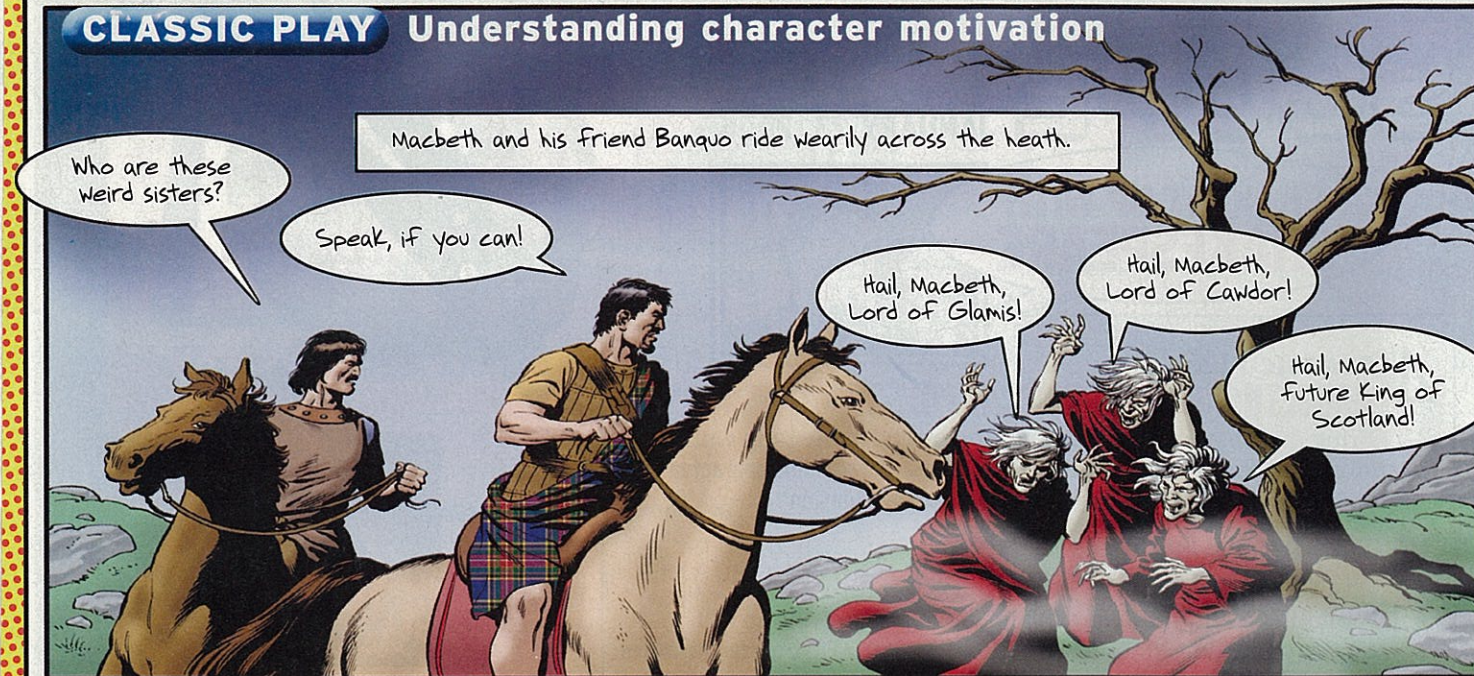


CLASSIC PLAY Understanding character motivation

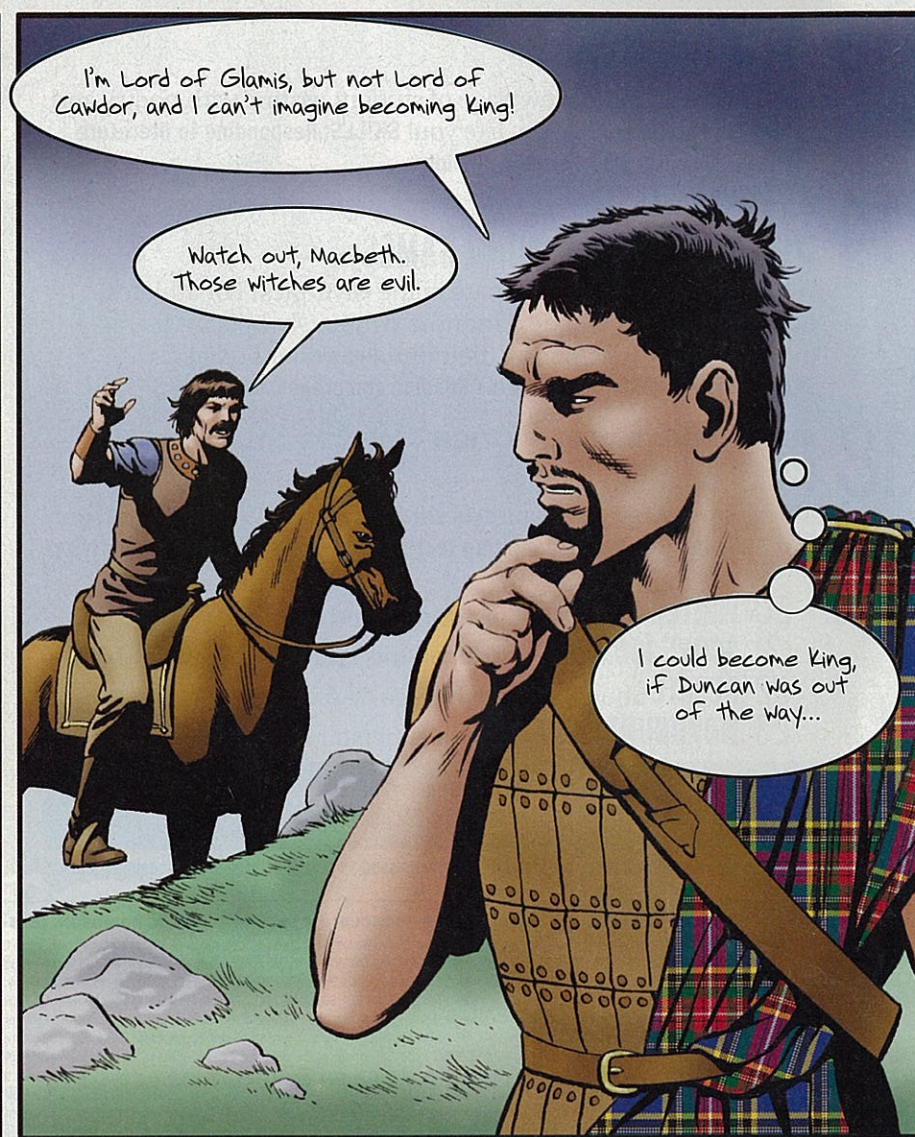


CHARACTERS

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read.

- ___ *NARRATOR 1 (N1)
- ___ *NARRATOR 2 (N2)
- ___ *NARRATOR 3 (N3)
- ___ *NARRATOR 4 (N4)
- ___ *MACBETH, a Scottish lord
- ___ *LADY MACBETH (LADY M), his wife
- ___ DUNCAN, the King of Scotland
- ___ MALCOLM, Duncan's older son
- ___ DONALBAIN, Duncan's younger son
- ___ WITCH 1
- ___ WITCH 2
- ___ WITCH 3
- ___ *BANQUO, Macbeth's best friend
- ___ *MACDUFF, a Scottish lord
- ___ ROSS, a Scottish lord
- ___ ANGUS, a Scottish lord
- ___ LENNOX, a Scottish lord
- ___ SOLDIER
- ___ DOCTOR
- ___ MAID
- ___ MURDERER 1
- ___ MURDERER 2
- ___ SPIRIT 1
- ___ SPIRIT 2
- ___ SERVANT

*Starred characters are major roles.



MACBETH

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ADAPTED FOR SCOPE BY RACHEL WAUGH

How far will Macbeth go to fulfill his ambition to be King of Scotland? Read this adaptation of Shakespeare's classic play to find out.

*The lines in pink are direct quotes from Shakespeare's original play.

THE BRITISH ISLES: Modern Day



SCENE 1

NARRATOR 1: Three witches meet on an area of wild empty land, called a heath, in Scotland, almost a thousand years ago.

WITCH 1: When shall we three meet again?

WITCH 2: In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

N2: Nearby, Scottish soldiers fight off Viking invaders. The fiercest Scottish warrior is named Macbeth.

WITCH 3: After the battle is done, let's meet Macbeth on this heath!

N3: The witches cackle and disappear.

N4: A wounded soldier stumbles into the Scottish camp. King Duncan greets him.

DUNCAN: Hail, brave friend! How is the battle going?

SOLDIER (exhausted): We lost a lot of men, but we won, thanks to your cousin Macbeth, Lord of Glamis. He's a fearless fighter.

N1: The King is pleased.

DUNCAN: Good work! Lord Ross,

SAY IT! wounded — WOOND-id

please tell Macbeth that, from now on, I'm making him Lord of Cawdor, as well as Lord of Glamis.

N2: Ross goes in search of Macbeth.

SCENE 2

N3: Macbeth and his friend Banquo ride wearily across the heath. They see the three witches.

BANQUO: Who are these weird sisters?

MACBETH: Speak, if you can!

WITCH 1: Hail Macbeth, Lord of Glamis!

WITCH 2: Hail, Macbeth, Lord of Cawdor!

WITCH 3: Hail, Macbeth, future King of Scotland!

N4: Macbeth shivers.

BANQUO: Macbeth, what's wrong? Those predictions sound good.

N1: The witches start to fade away.

MACBETH: Stop! Tell me more. I'm Lord of Glamis, but not Lord of Cawdor, and I can't imagine becoming King!

BANQUO: Where did they go?

N2: Ross arrives, and pats Macbeth on the back.

ROSS: The King was so impressed with your fighting today that he's making you the Lord of Cawdor!

MACBETH (to himself): The witches were right!

BANQUO (whispering): Watch out, Macbeth. Those witches are evil. Don't let them manipulate you.

N3: But Macbeth is lost in thought.

MACBETH (to himself): I could become King, if Duncan was out of the way...

ROSS: What's on your mind, Macbeth?

MACBETH: Nothing, nothing at all. Let's go meet King Duncan.

SCENE 3

N4: The next day, Macbeth's wife welcomes him home to their Castle at Inverness. At this time, all of Scotland's powerful warlords live in castles.

LADY MACBETH: How was the battle?

MACBETH: We beat the Vikings. And I have even more good news. Duncan made me Lord of Cawdor.

LADY M (thrilled): Now you'll have more land, and more power!